New International Airport in Navi Mumbai

483. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its approval to construct, new international airport at Panvel, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The techno-economic feasibility report prepared by the City and Industrial Development Corporation [CIDCO] of Maharashtra for construction of a second international airport at Navi Mumbai is under examination.

Indian flights to Kabul

484. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to operate Indian flights to Kabul;

(b) whether it will be viable to fly through other countries in view of the Pakistani ban on Indian flights flying in its air-space; and

(c) if so, the alternative plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) In view of closure of Pakistani Air Space for Indian carriers and the financial viability of the operations on alternative route, Indian Airlines does not have any immediate plans to introduce flights to Kabul. However Ariana Afghan Airlines, the designated airline of Afghanistan and Mahan Air, one of the designated airlines of Iran have been permitted to operate flights from/through Kabul to India.

Security Network at Airports

485. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the porous security network at the airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Adequate security measures are in force at the airports